

What is Claimed is:

1. A washing machine comprising:

a first tub;

a second tub disposed in the first tub; and

5 a structure operatively coupled with at least one of the first and second tubs to receive air from the second tub, dehumidify the air and recirculate the dehumidified air back into the second tub to dry laundry in the second tub during a drying operation of the washing machine.

10 2. The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the structure includes:

at least one circulation duct coupled to the first tub for circulating the dehumidified air back into the second tub.

15 3. The washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the structure further includes:

a fan disposed at a portion of the circulation duct; and

a heater disposed at a portion of the circulation duct for applying heat to the air flowing in the circulation duct to dehumidify the air.

20 4. The washing machine as claimed in claim 3, wherein the fan is a sirocco type fan.

5. The washing machine as claimed in claim 3, wherein the structure further includes:

a water supplying duct for supplying external water to the circulation duct to further dehumidify the air in the circulation duct.

5

6. The washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the structure further includes:

a water supplying duct for supplying external water to the circulation duct to further dehumidify the air in the circulation duct.

10

7. The washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the circulation duct has a plurality of grooves provided at inner wall surfaces of the circulation duct.

15

8. The washing machine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the grooves have helical configurations.

9. The washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the structure further includes:

20

an external air supplying duct for supplying external air towards the circulation duct; and

an external air fan disposed at an inlet area of the external air supplying duct to draw the external air into the external air supplying

duct.

10. The washing machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the external air supplying duct has an outlet disposed in the circulation
5 duct.

11. The washing machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the external air supplying duct has an outlet disposed outside the circulation duct for supplying the external air to an outer surface of the
10 circulation duct.

12. The washing machine as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

at least one cooling fin disposed at an outer surface of the
15 circulation duct to dehumidify the air in the circulation duct.

13. The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the structure includes:

a feed water valve for supplying external water to the washing
20 machine; and

a tub cover for discharging the external water to inner walls of the first tub to dehumidify air in the first tub during the drying operation.

14. The washing machine as claimed in claim 13, wherein the structure further includes:

a water supplying duct disposed between the feed water valve and the tub cover for transporting the external water from the feed water valve to the tub cover.

15. The washing machine as claimed in claim 13, wherein the tub cover has a flow passage having a plurality of water spraying holes disposed on a bottom portion of the tub cover.

16. The washing machine as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

at least one cooling fin disposed at an outer surface of a circulation duct of the structure to dehumidify air in the circulation duct.

17. The washing machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the external air fan is an axial type fan.

18. The washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein there are multiple circulation ducts and the structure further includes a single cooling fin having the circulation ducts pass therethrough to dehumidify air in the circulation ducts.

19. The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a pulsator operatively coupled with the first and second tubs.

5

20. The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a drain duct coupled with the first tub to discharge water out of the washing machine.